

1. (Amended) A suspension system for in-line skates comprising:

a wheel support member for rotatably supporting one or more wheels of an in-line skate [of the type] wherein each skate has a boot and plurality of wheels attached to the bottom of the boot;

5 attaching means for pivotally attaching said wheel support member at a single pivot point to the bottom of the skate boot and allowing said wheel support member to move horizontally relative to the boot at the pivot point; and

shock absorbing means located between the boot bottom and said wheel support member for cooperating with said attaching means so that said shock absorbing means is engaged
10 when said wheel support member pivots at the pivot point or moves relative thereto.

13. (Amended) A suspension system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said bottom of the boot includes a sole plate to which said wheel support member [means] is pivotally attached by said
attaching means.

18. (Amended) An improved in-line skate [of the type] having a boot and plurality of wheels
attached to the bottom of the boot, wherein the improvement comprises:

a front and a rear suspension system, each of which includes:


5 a wheel support member for rotatably supporting one or more wheels of the in-line skate;

attaching means for pivotally attaching said wheel support member at a single pivot point to the bottom of the boot and allowing said wheel support member to move horizontally

relative to the boot at the pivot point; and

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shock absorbing means located between the boot bottom and said wheel

 support member for cooperating with said attaching means so that said shock absorbing means is engaged when said wheel support member pivots at the pivot point or moves horizontally relative to the boot at the pivot point.

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the indication in the Office Action mailed May 10, 2002 that claims 30, 31 and 35 would be allowable if rewritten to include the base claim and any intervening claims. With respect to amended independent claims 1 and 18, Applicant submits that they are neither anticipated nor suggested by Chen or any of the prior art of record since Chen does not disclose or suggest an attaching means for pivotally attaching said wheel support member at a single pivot point, as such is now recited in the amended claims. The wheel supports of Chen are each clearly attached to the bottom of the skate boot at two points by a pair of attaching means B1, 5. This difference is submitted to be significant because attachment at two points clearly restricts pivoting action about either point.

Independent claim 26 which was rejected as being obvious in view of Chen and Chang is submitted to be patentable without amendment since the multiple and separated slots of Chang, particularly slot 21, are not seen to disclose or suggest the single combined slot recited in claim 26 in which a single slot has both horizontal and vertical sections in communication with each other, as shown in the drawings and described in the specification at page 12, lines 12-16.

With respect to the §112 rejections, it will be appreciated that the phrase "of the type" has